

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Denachowski

This is a public comment for the
Wright Petition, (cc Docket #96-128)

Sir, as an inmate of the T.D.O.C.
"Tennessee Dept. of Corrections" Charles Bass
Correctional Complex, here in Nashville, Tn. I
am concerned about the high phone rates we are
forced to pay, if we are to stay in contact by
phone and stay in touch with family.

These high rates are a burden on
my family and friends. Therefore, I am in
full support of a petition that will address
this issue, and I would like for the (FCC)
to take what actions are necessary to put a
stop to phone rate gouging.

Sincerely,
Joe Samuel 320947

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

This is a public comment for the
WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket #96-128)

07/21/2012

BRADFORD J. KING 228745
Thumb Correctional Facility
3225 John Conley Dr.
Lapeer, Mich 48446

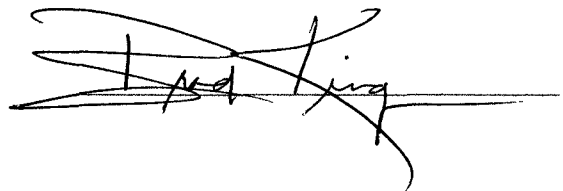
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comment
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554
www.prisonphonejustice.org

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing this letter in hope you will be able to help with this HIGH COST on the PRISON PHONES. As with the economy being so bad at time, it is really hard on most families, and I believe most people now days are on a FIXED INCOME, and most work for a MIMIMUM wage. But there is no doubts we want to talk to our love ones. But the COST is keeping our communication at a stand still.

Also the families are FORCED to make accounts with the Phone Company (MORE MONEY) when there is nothing wrong with their Collect calls, as it is just another way for the Company to make money off the families.

I want to thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad King", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

July 30, 2012

Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (cc Docket# 96-128).

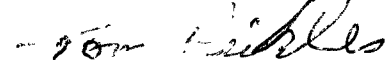
Our son, at Mac Dougall Correctional Institute in Suffield, CT has been incarcerated since 1997. His collect calls originally cost us about \$20 for 15 minutes. In 2008 Global Tel Link offered a pre-paid contract which reduced the cost to \$12.97 for 15 min. Of course, that required us to pay up front. We try to maintain a minimum balance of \$25 (2calls) which means that most of the time we have \$100 or more of our Social Security Retirement tied up in that account.

As with all telephone companies, we are charged a lot of State and Federal fees as well as surcharges and taxes so that the stated "rate per minute" is meaningless.

We can't call him. He has to call us and we can't guess or calculate how many times he tries to call and can't reach us. So, in addition to regular letters and semi-annual 1600 mile trips to see him, phone calls are his and our lifeline.

We appreciate every effort toward making his calls more affordable.

A Sincere Thanks,




Tom and Dora Pickles
636 Harris Point Way
Wake Forest, NC 27587

Chairman Julius Genachowski
28 July 2012
Page 2

I also previously had problems with contacting my attorney. Apparently their service provider does not have contracts with all the other local service providers so I could not make collect calls to him as they did not have an agreement with him. They literally forced him into opening a prepaid account with them.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter. If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Beldotti", written in a cursive style.

Dennis J. Beldotti
W-45845

NATIONAL LIFERS' OF AMERICA, INC.
Chapter 1026-A
Michigan Reformatory
1342 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846-1923

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

July 11, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Subject: "THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket # 96-128)."

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I have been in prison in the state of Michigan for 40 years now. I am from another country. Placing a phone to my family members to my country has become very expensive over the past year since PCS Daily has acquired the Michigan Dep't of Corrections prisoner telephone contract. They raised the cost of a phone call dramatically without even placing prisoners and their families on notice and placed a surcharge per minute on a prisoner telephone call to purchase special equipment, such as tasers, bullet proof vest, cell phone detection equipment and to pay PCS to handle the MDOC financial revenues for kicks backs generated from the prisoner telephone system.

It is hard enough to do a life sentence and now I can not even afford a phone call to my family in my country. Its time for your office to stand up for what is right. Please take action and stop these companies from charging so much for an overseas phone call.

Thank you very much for your time in this matter.

Very much concerned,

Tony Jakupaji

Tony Jakupaji, #148692
Active member



NATIONAL LIFERS OF AMERICA, INC.



Michigan Reformatory
1342 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

CHAPTER 1026-A

FCG Mail Room

July 22, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: "This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128)."

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This letter is in hopes that you will put some type of regulation into effect with State's like Michigan and telephone companies that target prisoner populations and their families to make big profits.

I have 50 years served in prison on a life without parole sentence. I have watched many prisoners come to prison young and are now old and greying grandparents. Today their are more than 14 times as many prisoners over the age of 55 than ever. To live this long in prison takes a lot of family support and communication. If state and federal governments are going to keep people in prison until they die, 20 to 55 years after they been incarcerated, than they should at least provide us with reasonable telephone services, to maintain this family support and communication. After all, many of use older prisoners are now in wheelchairs or us walkers to get around and can no longer work a prison assignment, to be able to afford a phone call to our children's children, our grandchildren now.

I thank you very much for your time hoping that you will do something about these high cost of a prisoner telephone call in the state of Michigan.

Yours truly,

Mr. Ali Shabazz, LWOP #94288
Chairman, Legal Research Committee

Received & Inspected

AUG 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

DAVID WROBLESKI, LWOP #226162
NATIONAL LIFERS' OF AMERICA, INC.
Chapter 1026-A
Michigan Reformatory
1342 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846-1923

July 15, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128):

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Hello, does any body hear me out there? I am serving a life without parole sentence in the Michigan Department of Corrections. I have been incarcerated for more than two (2) decades now. Over the years, I have lost most of my contact with my family and friends due to the increased cost of a telephone call from the prison setting. I come from a very poor family. A family who can't afford to pay \$3.80 per phone call, and a surcharge of 12-cents per minute to pay for cell phone detection equipment, and another surcharge to pay for PCS and the MDOC's financial accounting scheme.

Prison jobs are very far and in between, and a prisoner such as myself who totally depends on a prison job to pay for a telephone debit card and hygiene products, typically is forced to go without communicating on the telephone with family and friends, where the average monthly income of a prison job in the state of Michigan is \$8.00 to \$14.00.

PCS and the MDOC are destroying many prisoner family communications, as they have done with me. Please stop this outrages price gouging by these big prison telephone corporations and wealthy politicians who are taking campaign funds or other kickbacks for entering in such contracts with these companies.

Respectfully,



David Wroblewski, LWOP #226162
Special Programs Coordinator

WESLEY BASKIN BEY, LWOP #166048
NATIONAL LIFERS OF AMERICA, INC.
Chapter 1026-A
Michigan Reformatory
1342 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846-1923

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

July 14, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: This is a public comment for the Wright Petitioner (CC Docket #96-128):

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing you this letter to address a few complaints in regards to the Michigan Department of Corrections prisoner telephone contract with the manipulating PCS corporation.

I have been confined now for 33 years, serving a Life Without Parole sentence. It is very important that I have an access to the telephone to communicate with my family members and loved ones. As I get older, my family members also get older, they eventually die off like the rest of us. It is very important to communicate with my wife as much as possible, I love her very much. But just being married while in prison is very straining on our relationship. Telephone communication keeps our relationship alive.

Not being able to provide for my wife and family financially is very straining. To be charged a 12-cent a minute surcharge for every minute I speak on the telephone to my wife is very costly. Especially when this surcharge is being charged to purchase corrections staff personal protection equipment, tasers, ballistic vests and contraband detection equipment and a new security camera system here at the Michigan Reformatory. This equipment has nothing whatsoever to do with the prisoner telephone system. It serves only one purpose, to destroy prisoner and family relationships, and communications. It does not serve rehabilitation purposes at all. It only serves PCS and the MDCC's financial gain goals.

The prisoner telephone service should be used to restore the already strained family ties of prisoners, not destroy them. It should not be used for financial gain purposes, under any disguise. Thus, I respectfully request that you intervene and put an end to such practices as PCS and the MDCC have engaged in.

I thank you very much for your time, praying for your intervention.

Respectfully yours,
Wesley Baskin-Bey
Wesley Baskin Bey
Chairman, Legislative Committee

AUG - 6 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

FCC Mail Room 7-30-12

Mandy

This is a public comment for the Wright petition (cc Docket #96-128).

My name is Christopher Jamison. I'm currently an inmate house in Buckingham Correctional Center. My mother is the primary person I have to call, and I am unable to due to the high rates of Global Tel Link. My mother is poor; she's been out of work for years due to a worksite injury, and struggles to get by on disability checks. She cannot afford the rates for cell phone calls, and does not own a home phone. If rates were more reasonable, perhaps she could afford the calls.

Other than lowering rates, I have two suggestions. First, GTL offers an inmate debit feature to call people at our expense, but only for land lines. In these times, fewer people are using land lines, and more are going with the convenient and usually cheaper cell phone. Being able to call a cell phone using personal debit would help.

My other suggestion is to offer prepaid phone cards on commissary. Anything to take

7-27-12

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman,

I am writing you with concerns with the high fees from calling home from C.S.A.T.F. / S.R. in Luccern California. I am an inmate struggling with T.B.I. or Traumatic Brain Injury. The economy is very difficult making a hardship to speak with my family. The weak economy has made it very troublesome making ends meet. I am earnestly requesting relief and information to remedy my dilemma. Thank you for your time Chairman hope to hear from you.

Respectfully,

Michael Cuffman

C.D.C.# B-40505



NATIONAL LIFERS OF AMERICA, INC.

Michigan Reformatory
1342 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846

CHAPTER 1026-A



Received & Inspected

AUG 06 2012

FCC Mail Room

July 23, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: "This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128)."

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am hoping that you will stop the Michigan Department of Corrections and their prisoner telephone contractor PCS from manipulating the poor families of prisoners and prisoner themselves.

I come from a very poor community in Detroit, Michigan. I am 53 years and the father of two and grandfather of three. I am approximately 140 miles from home. I would love to speak to my wife, children, and grandchildren, but I simply cannot afford to purchase a phone card at a minimum of \$10.00 and to pay \$3.80 for a phone call on a \$8.00 a month prison assignment. Nor, can my family afford to pay these high prices for a phone call plus, surcharges for special equipment such as bullet proof vest, tasers, and security cameras, which have nothing to do with telephone companies and telephone calls, yet, we are forced to pay such on our phone bills.


I thank you very much for your time, praying for your cooperation in this matter.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Daniels, #146527
Vice-Chairman, Legislative Committee



NATIONAL LIFERS OF AMERICA, INC.

Received & Inspected 

Michigan Reformatory
1342 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846

AUG 06 2012
FCC Mail Room

CHAPTER 1026-A

June 22, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: "This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)."

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Government officials such as those in the state of Michigan, who have approved the PCS contract that includes kickbacks, described as 12-cent per minute surcharge for security equipment, and excessively high rates, apparently forgot why prisoners are afforded phone access in the first place. For one, there is a widely-known and researched correlation between prisoners who maintain contact with their families and those who are successful in staying out of prison after they are released. This reduces recidivism rates.

But there is more to it. What about a person such as myself, who has been wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to life-without-parole--who is indigent--and simply can not afford the high cost of a prison telephone call? I have been in prison for 29 years, fighting for my life. Prior to PCS's contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections, I was able to afford some phone calls seeking legal and other assistance to prove my innocence. Since PCS has acquired the MDOC prisoner telephone contract, I have been not been able to afford to make any phone calls seeking assistance to prove my innocence. How do I prove my innocence--if I cannot afford to communicate with my family, friends, or those with who may be willing to assist me?

These high priced prisoner telephone contracts are designed to make big corporations rich, save the state of Michigan money, while nickel and dimming the poor and unfortunate. Thus, I respectfully request your intervention in lowering the cost of a prisoner telephone call.

Sincerely, 

Paul Russ, LWOP #178706
Active Membership

JAMES GOODMAN BEY, LWOP #227294
NATIONAL LIFERS' OF AMERICA, INC.
Chapter 1026-A
Michigan Reformatory
1342 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846-1923

Received & Inspected
AUG 06 2012
FCC Mail Room

July 12, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Committee
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re; THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket #96-128):

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Michigan Dept of Corrections (MDOC) budget continues to include boilerplate language that requires contracts for prisoner telephone services to use the same rates as calls placed from outside of correctional facilities, except surcharges "necessary to meet special equipment cost." However, there are now additional provisions being added that define what "special equipment" can be purchased with the restricted revenues in the special equipment (SEF) generated by the surcharges added to prisoner phone calls last year.

The MDOC and Michigan politicians assume the availability of 19.7 million in SEF revenues generated since February 2011. The Executive proposed using \$11.4 million to begin replacing staff personal protection equipment, \$5.8 million in security equipment such as tasers, ballistic vests and contraband detection equipment and \$2.4 million for new security cameras in cellblocks here at the Reformatory.


Not one consideration was taken in regards to how difficult it is for the majority of poor prisoners and their families to communicate. Not one consideration was taken to use any of this money to develop better visits or other telephone communications or video visiting equipment for prisoners and their families who can't afford to drive hundreds of miles to visit their loved ones. Not one consideration was taken in regards to the importance of a prisoner's communication with their loved ones and rehabilitation. The only thing considered was how to make money off prisoners to pay for equipment that is not needed.

I ask you to stop these practices. They have nothing to do with a telephone service contract, or rehabilitation.

Sincerely, *J. A. Goodman Bey*
James Goodman Bey, LWOP #227294
Secretary



NATIONAL LIFERS OF AMERICA, INC.

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Michigan Reformatory
1342 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846

AUG 06 2012

FCC Mail Room

CHAPTER 1026-A

July 22, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: "This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket No. 96-128)."

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am requesting that you do something about the high cost of a prisoner telephone call. It is very important that prisoners have access to telephones to call their loved ones, their attorneys and friends at a reasonable cost. PCS Daily the Michigan Dep't Corrections prisoner telephone company does not see it that way and have increased the cost of a telephone times three, since taking over the telephone contract in 2011.

My family base has deteriorated since my mother passed away approximately seven years ago. I could not call her then when telephone call cost were also extremely high. She passed away without me ever being able to say good bye. I have been incarcerated now for 31 years, and have see many prisoners literally go insane because they could not talk to their children, wives, and other family members. Its not as easy as a free person thinks doing prison time, especially on those who are doing Life Without Parole like me, who cannot afford to pay they cost of a phone call anymore on .74¢ a day prison assisgnment.

I respectfully request that you please take the necessary steps to prevent these telephone companies that are targeting prisoners and their families from manipulating the system.

Thank you very for your time, pray for some action.

Thank you,
Dennis Wynn
Dennis Wynn, LWOP #126809
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee

Brian Lee Rowe #1131545
Buckingham Correctional Center
P.O. Box 430
Dillwyn, Virginia 23936

Received & Inspected
AUG - 6 2012
FCC Mail Room

July 31, 2012

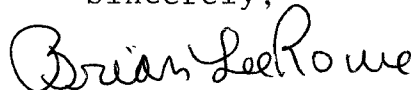
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-128

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128). I am currently in prison here in Virginia. The price of making a collect call home to my mother is extremely expensive. It cost on average \$8.00 to make a collect call from Dillwyn, Virginia to Richmond, Virginia even though Richmond is only an 1½ away. On the other hand collect calls from Powhatan and Nottoway Correctional Facilities to Richmond are only 90 cents to a dollar. My mother is disabled and only receives \$900 a month, \$100 dollars of which goes to collect call fees every month. \$8.00 for a 15 to 20 minute intrastate collect call is a grave injustice upon poor people in free society being penalized for showing support for their loved ones in prison. I pray that the FCC will look into this injustice being perpetrated by Global Tel Link phone company.

Sincerely,



Brian Lee Rowe

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

7-30-12

MATT DAVIS *K97279

STATEVILLE C.C.

P.O. BOX 112

JOLIET, IL. 60434

"THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT
PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128)"

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

AS A PRISONER AND A FATHER THE HIGH COST
OF PRISON PHONE CALLS HAS AFFECTED ME AND MY
FAMILY IN A PLETHORA OF WAYS, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY
IT HAS HINDERED MY REHABILITATION PROCESS BY
LIMITING MY CONTACT WITH OUTSIDE SUPPORT SYSTEMS,
AND BY CAUSING MY CHILDREN TO NOT HAVE A MORE
CONSTANT PRESENCE OF THEIR FATHER.

OFTEN TIMES THE PHONE IS THE ONLY MEANING-
FUL CONTACT I HAVE WITH MY FRIENDS, LOVED ONES,
AND CHILDREN. PHONE CALLS COST NEARLY 10 DOLLARS
FOR JUST A 25 MINUTE PHONE CALL WHO CAN AFFORD
THAT?

I HOPE YOU CAN SEE THAT THE PRACTICE OF

PRISON PHONE PRILE GOUBING AFFECTS THE PRISONERS
FAMILY AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE IN A WAY THAT
OUTWAYS ANY JUSTIFICATION PUT FORTH BY PRISON
OFFICIALS, ALL THEY CARE ABOUT IS KICK-BACKS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Matthew A. Davis

MATTHEW A. DAVIS *K97279

STATEVILLE C.C.

Mr. James Robert Pesci # 990495
Florida Civil Commitment Center
13619 S.E. Hwy 70
Arcadia, Florida 34266

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 27, 2012

RE: THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am an Involuntary Civilly Committed resident of the Florida Civil Commitment Center which is a secure facility. I am contacting you in support of the above referenced matter. This facility, as well as countless other prisons and secure facilities in the State of Florida have been victimized with the extraordinary billing charges in the phones that we are restricted to use here to make collect only outgoing calls. The particular telecommunications vendors contracted here is Secureus Technologies. Like the thousands of other companies that have contracts with various prisons and secure facilities across the nation, the prices are outrageous and the facility receives a kickback from the company for allowing them to run operations here.

I can tell you by personal experience that the charges are so high that I very rarely call my family and friends in the community as I feel that I am disrespecting them and burdening them with the high costs associated with just accepting the calls. I can also tell you that I have used various phone services in the prison systems both in the State of New York and Florida and have, like everyone else, feel that I have been victimized and a type of extortion is holding me hostage. I can also tell you that when I did use these systems, my family and outside contacts, especially my girlfriends, without exaggeration, have had monthly bills of anywhere from \$ 300-to \$ 800.

It's a shame that such facilities and telephone contractors are allowed to conduct business as usual with impunity. Therefore, please consider this a letter of support for the above captioned case and a formal complaint by myself on behalf of my family, friends and all others similarly situated in this facility and across the nation. It is my prayer that the FCC will conduct investigations and put a halt to this outrageous service.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your time, understanding and prompt attention to this matter. I remain;

Respectfully,


James Robert Pesci

XC: Files/Postings

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

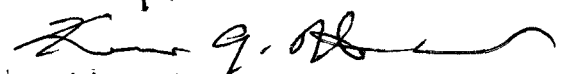
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128). I am a prisoner incarcerated at Buckingham Correctional Center. I am 34 years old and I've been incarcerated since 1999. Throughout this entire time my family and I have struggled with the high cost of prison phone calls.

It is no secret that most prisoners come from low income families and my family is no different. We rarely speak over the phone and I have limited contact with my daughter. Making the phone calls cheaper would help me create a better relationship with my family.

Sincerely,


Kenneth J. Hunter

CH 431400

BKCC

P.O. Box 430

Dillwyn VA 23936

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

8-30-12

Dear Chairman Gelachowski

" This is a public comment for the
Wright Petition (cc Docket #96-128)

I'm writing on the behalf
of myself and my family. How
the high costs of this prison (Buckingham)
~~is supporting~~ phone calls is taking
an major affect on the relationships
between my support system. I
haven't heard my mother's voice
in three years, now. It would
truly mean so much to be able
to call her and check on things
without the outstanding costs
\$7.95 per call. I support your
stand for what is right, all inmates
to have a chance to stay in contact
with their family.

Thank You

Good Bless

Terrell Cartwright
#

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski,

"This is a public comment for the Wright Petition".
(cc Docket # 96-128) I'm writing in reference to the Virginia Department of corrections phone system, and how the effect communication with my family. Since I made my transition from the county jail to the D.O.C. I have had an substantial decrease in phone communication with my family. In the jail I was able to purchase phone cards at a reasonable price, which in return allowed me to have frequent contact with my loved ones. Being in the system it costs me nearly eight dollars to call home. Therefore I'm limited to call one time a month, if theres no high phone bill at my residence then I could lose phone contact for a couple months. With these prices it seems like the state is keeping us away from our loved ones, rather than bringing us together. With that I believe there should be a fair rate on the phone system allowings ~~us~~ us to keep contact with family in a regular

basis. Maybe incorporate a phone card that would be placed on debit accounts. Enabling us to make a set amount of calls from anywhere to seven or ten. with the charge being around one dollar fifty cents a call to two dollars. Reviewing this I hope a decision can be made going forth on installing cheaper phone calls in the Virginia department of corrections.

Sincerely,

x Rico Naylor 7-28-12

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket-#96-128)

Susan Vaughn
9711 Norman Rd.
Clarkston, MI 48348

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to ask that you consider the Wright Petition that I understand would put a cap on inmate telephone rates.

I have a loved one who is currently incarcerated in the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) and in order to speak with this person on the telephone I am charged outrageous rates. It is my understanding that the telephone provider, Public Communication Services (PCS) charges \$0.05 per minute to provide the actual inmate telephone service, and an additional \$0.15 is added to support a "special fund" created by PCS to generate additional profits for themselves and the MDOC.

This predatory telephone provider collects 30% of the money generated for this fund. They actually make more money from this fund than from providing the actual telephone service. For its part, the MDOC claims it needs this extra money to plug holes in the state's prison budget. Shouldn't that budget funding come through taxes equally spread across the entire tax base? It seems prisoners and families are being permitted to maintain their relationships through telephone calls only if they make a contribution to the MDOC operating budget. Their option is to not use the phone.

Excessive phone fees not only unfairly burden low-income families but also undermine the re-entry and rehabilitation efforts trumpeted by the MDOC. Taxpayers should not have to subsidize prisoner phone calls, but neither should the state and predatory phone companies make millions of dollars on the backs of some of the state's poorest people. This fund is generating over \$9 million annually. Keep in mind, this fund has nothing to do with the necessary cost of providing the telephone service; it's strictly pure profit and greed.

It seems the main function of our FCC is to protect consumers from predatory behavior, and if this doesn't qualify for that protection, then I don't know what would. Please cap these rates and do the right thing.

Sincerely,



This is a public comment for the WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket #96-128)

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comment
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

AUG - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I'm writing to ask that you act on the WRIGHT petition to cap inmate telephone rates and stop the exploitation of prisoners and their loved ones.

I am serving time in the Michigan Department of Correction. Since coming to prison, I have tried to remain in close contact with my family and friends, but with each passing year it becomes more difficult. Despite publicly trumpeting the benefits of prisoners remaining in close contact with their families, the self serving policies and actions by the MDOC are continuing to tear at the very fabric of these bonds.

The two most important and critical ways for a prisoner to keep in contact with his family comes through visits and telephone calls. For most families, including mine, making the trip to visit is a rare occurrence. When you consider the bad economic times, and that most of these visitors themselves are struggling near the margins, the cost of making the trip to visit is prohibitive. Add to this that the MDOC has reduced the amount of days a prisoner can get visits, and restricted the number of visitors an inmate is allowed to see, it's not surprising to see the number of visits being reduced by 70%.

This leaves the telephone as the main lifeline for a majority of prisoners. Rather than making this critical service more convenient, the MDOC has chosen instead to exploit this service for profit. They, along with predatory telephone providers, have colluded to extort and target those who can least afford it. Of the average \$3.25 charged for a 15 minute call, \$2.50 goes directly into the pockets of the MDOC and telephone provider.

The MDOC claims it needs its share to shore up its budget. Prisoners and their families should not be charged outrageous rates to support prison budgets, that burden should be borne by the entire tax base. As for the telephone provider, they get a 30 % cut of the overcharge. Remember, the telephone provider has already built in their cost and profit margins for providing the actual telephone service. Public Communication Services is Michigan's current provider and they are making more money from administering this slush fund than they are from providing the actual inmate telephone service.

It seems one of the functions of our Federal Communications Commission is to protect the consumer from predatory behavior, and if this doesn't qualify for that protection, then I don't know what would. Please put a stop to this. Cap the rates!

Sincerely,

Mark A. Smith

MARK A. SMITH #251469
3225 John Conley Drive
CAPEER, Mich. 48446

Received & Inspected

010 - 6 2012

FCC Mail Room

DEAR MR. GOLANOWSKI

I'm writing in regards to the cc-Docket # 96-128 Bill, in regards to the high rated phone bill. It's already a shame that family members, have to support their love ones while they are incarcerated then on top of it, have to try to communicate with him for her by phone, in this economy. then at the end of the day, to top it all off. when a mother, sis, father and uncle is looking up for something they didn't do. while trying to assist him for her with proving their innocence the combining of all that. the kid that was left out there to ^{be} raise because of the injustice that has plagued that person. And that person I know so well. It's me and my family. So as I try to address this moralizing mess. Hopefully this will be my last year my ones will have to pull all these phone bill on the account on me.

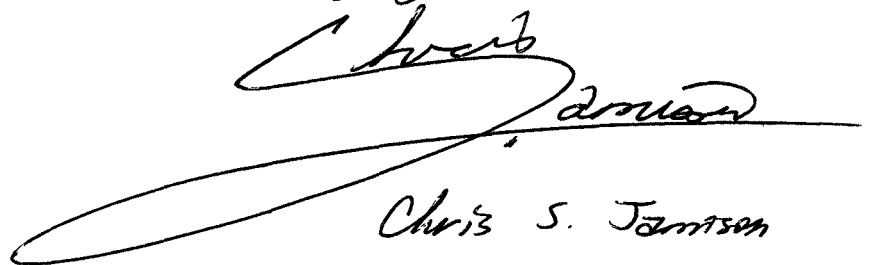
Mr. Zukus, would you please take in consideration, even thou the ones that have done the crimes in which landed them here, their family shouldn't have to be penalized for their wrong doing. And think about the citizens that have to pay that out rated phone bill.

(STATEVILLE CORR. CENTER) Sincerely Mr. GOLANOWSKI #A32920
P.O. BOX 112 Joliet Ill. 60434-0112

some of the burden off of the called party is an improvement.

I hope I've helped by doing my part, and that this issue is resolved in due time and proper manner.

Respectfully Yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, starting with a large 'C' and ending with a long horizontal flourish.

Chris S. Jamison